

REMARKS

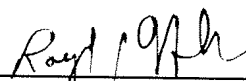
This Amendment cancels Claims 1-16 and adds new Claims 17-20.

The Claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 05-139921 ("Suzuki") or under 35 USC 103(a) over the combination of Suzuki with WO 01/26468 ("Senn") as set forth in the Office Action.

With regard to the combination of Suzuki and Senn, Applicants respectfully assert that the Claims as amended herein overcome the rejections. Suzuki contains no teaching with respect to corn or maize nor applying the insecticide as a seed treatment. At best the combination would teach a granule for insect control in rice which granule includes imidacloprid. The seed treatment with insecticide to reduce phytotoxicity of the herbicide to corn or maize is not taught or obvious over the references.

Review and reconsideration of the claims and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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